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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 PCH-04 /024 R

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----------262027Z 128658 /50
R 260020Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

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FOL RPT CAIRO 5065 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 24 MAR 77

QUOTE:LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 5065

DEPT PASS ARAB LEAGUE CAPITALS AND OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, PROG, OAU, XF
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS

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1. ARAB LEAGUE AFRICAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR (ABDALLAHI ADAM, SOMALI) TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 24 THAT NO MACHINERY YET ESTABLISHED TO CHANNEL APPROXIMATELY $1.5 BILLION PROMISED BY ARAB STATES FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AT 7-9 MARCH AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH FUNDING MECHANISM WILL BE WITHIN ARAB LEAGUE, RATHER THAN JOINT AL-OAU APPARATUS. ADAM SAID REGULAR AL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS PRIMARILY POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ARAB

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AID FOR AFRICA (E.G., BILATERAL ASSISTANCE VERSUS AID CHANNELLED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS), AND DONOR STATES WILL OUTLINE THEIR PREFERENCES. (COMMENT: ADAM INDICATED THAT THERE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURES WITHIN AL FOR ARAB AID TO BE CHANNELLED THROUGH AL PNSTITUTIONS, PERHAPS THROUGH OFFICE OF A NEWLY CREATED ASST AL SYG FOR AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION, BUT IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE SAUDIS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD ESCHEW OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR AFRICAN MODERATION THROUGH DIRECT CASH GRANTS TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SELECTED STATES: E.G. SOMALIA).

2. ADAM STATED THAT, ONCE DONOR STATES HAVE MADE PREFERENCES CLEAR, ALSYG RIAD, OAU SYG ETEKI, DIRECTORS OF ARAB BANK FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (KHARTOUM) AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ABIDJAN), AND HEAD OF UN'S ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA WILL MEET IN CAIRO MAY 4 TO HAMMER OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS OF ARAB AID FOR AFRICA. ONCE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE FINALIZED, JOINT AL-OAU COMMITTEE OF 24 WILL MEET IN LATE MAY TO GRANT FINAL POLITICAL APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION OF AID. ADAM COMMENTED THAT COMPOSITION OF 12-MEMBER AL AND OAU DELEGATIONS NOT YET FINAL AND MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM COMMITTEE OF 24 WHICH MET IN LUSAKA IN JANUARY. ADAM ALSO NOTED THAT MANY ARAB STATES OBJECTED TO HOLDING MAY COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA AND PROBABLY SOME OTHER VENUE WOULD BE SELECTED.

3. COMMENT: THROUGH CONVERSATION, ADAM GAVE IMPRESSION THAT AL BUREAUCRACY NOT YET UP TO HANDLING DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE-SCALE AID PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH AL DEFINITELY WANTS PIECE OF ACTION. PROBLEM CURRENTLY FACING ANY SUBSTANTIAL AL INVOLVEMENT IN AID PROGRAMS, ADAM CONCEDED, IS CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF ARAB TECHNICAL EXPERTISE
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TO HANDLE FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND TECHNICAL AID DATA. ADAM NOTED THAT KUWAIT DEVELOPMENT FUND AND SIMILAR EXPERIENCED ARAB IN-STITUTIONS ARE UNDERSTAFFED WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND OPINED THAT POSSIBLY AL WOULD HAVE TO RELY ON WESTERN EXPERTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS. WHETHER AL CAN COAX SUBSTANTIVE AID ROLE AWAY FROM SAUDI PENCHANT FOR BILATERAL DEALINGS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
MATTHEWS
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Retention: 0
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Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EG, XF, OAU
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